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The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority documents 199 06 852.6 filed 18 February 1999 and 199 26 462.7 filed 10 June 1999, as well as International priority document PCT/EP00/00815 filed 22 January 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-30, and replace them with the attached claims 31 - 59.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

AD Please replace page 4 of the drawings with the attached.

REMARKS

Claims 31 - 59 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and the claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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